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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3590
INFO RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0129
RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA PRIORITY 0010
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0321
RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY 0031
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0506
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 5348
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2042

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 002026

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/03/2018
TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [DJ](#) [ER](#) [ET](#) [KE](#) [SO](#) [TH](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: THAI POSITION ON AID TO HORN
OF AFRICA

REF: A. STATE 69644 (DEMARCHE REQUEST)
[1](#)B. BANGKOK 1833 (PROTESTS ALL AROUND)
[1](#)C. 07 BANGKOK 247 (ABDUCTED FISHERMAN)

Classified By: Acting DCM Anne Casper, reason: 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Acting POL Section Chief on July 2 delivered ref A points to Panyarak Poolthup, MFA Deputy Director General of the Department of South Asia, Middle East and African Affairs. Panyarak said the RTG would consider the USG request to provide aid to Horn of Africa countries, although he gave us little cause for optimism. Our conversation took note of recent protests in Thailand associated with rising commodity prices, and popular demands for increased government subsidies (ref B). Panyarak noted, however, that Thailand has brought a small number of Kenyans and Somalis to Thailand for "train the trainers" programs focused on agriculture, education, and fisheries.

[1](#)2. (C) Panyarak encouraged the USG to raise our concerns about the Horn of Africa in a UN forum, or to focus our efforts on oil-rich Middle Eastern countries. Panyarak tangentially noted that the RTG had successfully obtained the release of a Thai fisherman abducted in Somalia (ref C) by obtaining the assistance of Qatar; he remarked Qatar seemed to have a special relationship with at least some Horn of Africa countries.
JOHN